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TITLE: Method and system for surveillance of computer system operations

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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for monitoring computer system operations, the computer system comprising a processor, the processor supporting firmware and a running operating system, and a service processor coupled to the processor, the method comprising:

initiating surveillance of the computer system in the firmware when an architected function occurs in the operating system;

providing a pulse indicator from the firmware to the service processor; and

determining a status of computer system operations with the service processor based on a frequency of the pulse indicator.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the architected function occurs at predetermined intervals.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the architected function comprises an event scan function.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein the predetermined intervals comprise intervals of at least once per minute.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein initiating surveillance further comprises calling an event scan function in the operating system.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein providing a pulse indicator further comprises determining whether a predetermined pulse interval has been reached, and providing the pulse indicator when the predetermined pulse interval has been reached.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein determining a status further comprises determining whether the pulse indicator occurs at the predetermined pulse interval.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising executing a predetermined recovery policy by the service processor when the pulse indicator does not occur at the predetermined pulse interval.

9. A method for monitoring a computer system; the computer system including a processor and a service processor coupled to the processor, the processor including an operating system, the operating system including a facility to make periodic calls to a hardware platform of the computer system to sample for events; the method comprising the steps of:

a) calling an architected function by the operating system;

b) determining if a surveillance interval is below a predetermined interval with the hardware platform;

c) issuing a surveillance signal to the service processor if the surveillance interval is above the predetermined interval; and

d) responding to the surveillance signal by the service processor to indicate system malfunctions.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein step (a) further comprises calling an event scan function.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein step (d) further comprises performing a predetermined recovery policy.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein step (b) further comprises determining if the surveillance interval is below one minute.

13. A computer system with automatic surveillance capabilities, the computer system adhering to a common hardware reference platform, the computer system comprising:

processing means, the processing means supporting a running operating system, the operating system calling an architected function;

firmware means supported by the processing means, the firmware means receiving the architected function call and subsequently issuing a surveillance signal when a surveillance period has been satisfied; and

a service processor coupled to the processing means, the service processor receiving the surveillance signal and responding to the surveillance signal to indicate system malfunctions.

14. The computer system of claim 13 wherein the service processor responds to the surveillance signal by executing a predetermined recovery policy.

15. The computer system of claim 14 further comprising memory means for storing the predetermined recovery policy.

16. The computer system of claim 13 wherein the operating system calls an event scan function.